

rapidly enough when allowed to become a weed, and which makes as dense a mat as can be desired. In another clump of shrubs we are trying *Cerastium Biebersteinii*, (a variety of Mouse-Ear Chickweed). We have not had either of these long enough upon trial to be able to say more than that they promise well. The common Periwinkle (*Vincetoxicum*) would probably be useful in such places, and the Moss Pink (*Phlox subulata*) might be tried. Could we get a set of low-growing plants that would flourish well beneath the drip of shrubs, and completely cover the surface, it would not only greatly improve the appearance of our grounds, but do away with the necessity for weeding. When shrubs are set out to remain in one place for years, the soil should be so well prepared at the outset that there will be no need of the annual forking in of manure that many think it necessary to give their shrubberies every spring.—*The Farmer*.

Canadian Hedges.

We have received the following letter making inquiry about hedge-plants suitable for our climate.

LYNNBROOK, January 12th, 1874.

SIR:—Would you be kind enough to answer a few questions of importance to farmers and others, Jan 1st CANADA FARMER says a certain kind of honeylocust grown especially for hedges is hardy and durable. Where can it be got true to name, as it seems to be different from the kind we now have here. There are some nursery men here selling osage orange plants two years old, who claim it to be perfectly hardy, and will make a perfect hedge for farm purposes, price \$14 per thousand. Now sir is not that cheaper and better than making rails, if it will do that in two or three years; if it is so, why not sell it in older settlements where timber is so scarce and valuable. Here we have an abundance of timber although the winds tumble it down often; a hedge would be much the best. What I want to know is is it known to be the right kind for our cold climate? In three different places near here it is being tried, I suppose from seed, and it is cut down in winter, agents claim plants grown at Cleveland and two years old will stand our climate and still colder, making a first-class hedge; one of the men trying it is a nurseryman near Warwick village.

Now sir will you be kind enough to give me all the information you can in the *FARMER*, and very much oblige yours &c., M. A. BAYLEY

To this inquiry we reply that the

Osage Orange

is not sufficiently hardy to endure our Canadian climate, and will never make a reliable hedge-plant in this latitude. It makes no difference whether the plants are grown here from seed, or the seed is sown in Cleveland, Ohio, and the plants brought here when two years old or at any other age. The osage orange has been tried in the comparatively mild climate of the county of Lincoln, and found to be a failure on account of its inability to endure the winters, and we are fully persuaded that it will not thrive any better in the county of Lambton.

The Honey Locust.

is sufficiently hardy to endure the climate, and grows very vigorously and is well filled with thorns. We can not tell our correspondent where plants are to be obtained, but presume that our nurserymen either have them or can get them for him if he wishes to give them a trial. The honey-locust grows so strong that unless much care is used it will become a tree instead of a hedge-plant. We have seen them from twenty to thirty feet high, and covered with formidable thorns five or six inches in length.

The Price.

We have seen advertisements of these plants, and can assure our correspondent that fourteen dollars per thousand is a very high price to pay for two year osage orange. If he would deal with the nurserymen direct, instead of buying of "agents," he would save on an average thirty per cent. The usual price of osage orange is certainly not more than seven dollars per thousand. Honey-locust are usually a dollar or two higher. When will our farmers learn how much they are paying for this agency system? We have often known them to buy fruit trees, grape vines, &c., &c., of these "agents," that could be had of the nurserymen for one fourth of the money. And this is just as true of their reapers, mowers, threshing-machines &c. Our farmers pay the "agents," it is not the manufacturers.

Onions on Muck Land.

Herman Glass reported to the Farmer's Club of Monroe County, N. Y., that a few years since he came in possession of a light, sandy soil so exhausted as to be unproductive. On the place were a few acres of muck land, but his neighbors tried to discourage him from attempting to do anything with muck. Notwithstanding, he had succeeded in every crop he had attempted to raise, excepting Ruta Baga, and Peach-blow potatoes. He had raised good crops of Early Rose and other potatoes with small tops, but Peach-blows run too much to vines. Had raised 110 bushels of sound ears of corn per acre. The muck was from one to three feet deep, underlain with peat, and that with quicksand. No sand mixed with the muck. Timber that grew on the muck, soft maple, and elm.

In 1869 he commenced with one-fourth of an acre of onions,—yield not given; 1871, on two and three-fourths acres, 1,030 bushels, averaging 375 bushels per acre; 1872, on five acres, 1,142 bushels, yielding 228 per acre; 1873, on five acres, 2,425 bushels, or 485 per acre. Of the crop of 1873 he sold, in fall, 2,160 bushels, for \$1,793.85, a little more than 85 cents per bushel, and has 265 on hand, for which he can take \$1.40 per bushel or \$397.50 for the lot, which would make the entire crop amount to \$2,191.35, averaging ninety and one-third cents a bushel.

The cost of fertilizers, seed and labor, before harvesting, amounted to \$315, or 13 cents a bushel. Cost of harvesting, 10 cents a bushel. Entire cost per bushel, in market, 23 cents, making the crop net 67 cents a bushel, or \$321.95 per acre. When the crop is ripe, makes the onions out, lets them lay on land a few days, turning them two or three times to cure them; then he has them topped, and spread out two or three feet deep, under a shed. Sows in rows fourteen to sixteen inches apart. His land is thrown into beds, a rod in width, that the water may settle into the furrows between. Smartweed, purslane, and other weeds natural to muck land trouble him. Peas, Yellow Danvers and Red Danvers, a round, red, onion.

He finds unleached wood ashes his best fertilizer. Has tried several other fertilizers, but ashes gives best on his muck land. To succeed in raising onions, must have the right soil, and be so situated as to be able to procure cheap labor. Finds women, and even small girls, his most profitable laborers. Onions on sandy land, in his neighborhood, were mostly destroyed by the onion maggot. He had spread sand on a small piece of muck, and the onions on the sand were destroyed by maggots, but none affected those on muck.—*American Rural Home*.

New Plants.

The Early Mount Lebanon Iris (*I. histio*), a near relative of *I. reticulata* is just now in flower on a border in the herbaceous grounds at Kew. It bears beautiful blue flowers, spotted with deep purple, its fresh flowers just peeping through the surface of the soil. It is new to our gardens, and deserves general cultivation. It differs from *I. reticulata* in its smaller size, and much fewer, shorter, and broader leaves, and differently shaped inner perianth-segments.

Under the name of *Eremurus robustus*, Dr. Regel describes and figures, in a recent number of the *Gartenflora*, a very handsome hardy Liliaceous plant which has flowered in the open air in the Botanic Gardens at St. Petersburg and Moscow. From a loose crown of narrow ribbon-like leaves, about 2 feet long, it sends up a leafless flower-stem to a height of about 4½ feet, bearing on its summit a dense spike of rosy flowers, 2 feet or more in length, each of the flowers being nearly 2 inches in diameter. This very charming plant, which was discovered in Turkestan, is worthy of a place in the best collections.

In a recent number of the *Gartenflora*, Dr. Regel describes a new species of Tulip, from Turkestan, which flowered last year in the Botanic Gardens at St. Petersburg, and which, he says, is so beautiful that he considers it the Queen of Tulips. The flowers are of a brilliant scarlet (in some varieties purple, or, more rarely, yellow), from 1½ to 2½ inches long, and from 1 to 1½ inches broad, broadly bell-shaped, the points of the divisions of the corolla being much reflected. Flower-stalk from 2½ to 8 inches high. The leaves are thickly covered with oblong tawny spots, reminding one of the leaves of *Orchis maculata*. A well executed colored figure accompanies the description of this Tulip, which Dr. Regel has named *Tulipa Greigi*, in honor of Mr. S. A. Greig, the President of the Russian Imperial Horticultural Society.—*The Garden*.

About Apple Growing.

Calvin Pitcher, Esq., of Belfast, Me., is an enthusiast in apple growing. His farm of fifty acres, with the exception of about ten acres in pasturage is covered with apple trees of various sizes and ages, though a majority of them are now in bearing. One of his theories is not to use animal manure around or near his trees, but to depend wholly on vegetable manure in the form of mulching. He defends his position upon the ground that the one is the natural method and the other artificial—the latter tending to decay and the former to health.

He kept over 1,200 bushels of apples, mostly Baldwins, through the past winter and spring in his cellar, and has only just sold the last of them, the prices ranging from \$1 to \$2 per bushel. He says by his mode apples may be kept the year round, without losing their juiciness or crispness; and this method should be understood by every orchardist.

His theory is that early rotting and decay of apples is due to a great extent to a vegetable miasma in the air, which is communicated to it by vegetable evaporation under certain conditions. The effect of miasma is first seen in a minute speck; sometimes as many as a dozen may be counted on the same apple.

His remedy is a daily airing of the cellar or place where the apples are stored, arranging so as to have a brisk circulation until all the stagnant air is expelled and its place occupied by pure, healthy air.

His success has certainly demonstrated the feasibility of his plan. He is one of the most successful growers in this section, and his views are worthy of consideration.—*Country Gentleman*.

Ripening and Keeping of Pears.

Sixty and more years since it was written and printed that in order to have a good pear which naturally ripened in summer or early autumn, it must be gathered a few days, say eight or ten, before its real maturity. And, again, in order to have it obtain color of surface, and rich juiciness of flesh, it should be either covered, on a shelf, with flannel, or immersed in bran or wheat chaff. These principles were condensed and printed in the first edition of Downing's work on Fruits; they were before that, incorporated in several English works, and have since been promulgated in nearly every fruit book published.

Mr. Gordon, of Brighton, Mass., gave many years since a statement as to the effect of ripening pears in woolen cloths, and the same is recorded in "Field's Pear Culture." We have been twenty-five years or more, pursuing this course of careful gathering and imbedding in single layers between flannel, with good success. Few who grow or eat of pears know the richness or delicacy of the fruit, until they have eaten a summer or autumn pear, gathered just as soon as it would separate easily and readily from the tree, and then have been ripened up in flannel wraps and darkness. Temperature is again a point in this matter of ripening, if above 80° Fahrenheit, the pear will be liable to rot at the core, if below 60° it will color, but will not develop its saccharine perfectly, hence many a pear is condemned, because the grower or ripener did not know of the requisites to complete perfection.—F. R. ELLIOTT, in *Cleveland Herald*.

FERN.—These may easily be transferred from their woodland homes to the shady corner of the sitting-room, and be kept flourishing all winter. A good sized pot is filled a third of the way up with pounded charcoal, and bits of broken crockery; upon this is placed the fern with the soil in which it grew. A covering of moss around the base of the leaves will help to retain moisture, and prevent the fern from finding out that it has been transplanted. A luxury so cheap as this is within the reach of every family.—*Boston Cultivator*.

CAMELLIA JAPONICA.—The dark green, glossy foliage, and glorious flowers of these plants command the admiration of all. They are more easily cultivated than is generally supposed. They should be potted in a soil composed of two parts sandy loam, one part peat, with a little leaf mould added. They should be syringed three or four times a week, except when in flower, and kept in a close, moist place while growing. Water sparingly if plant is strong and robust, to cause a better bud setting. When this is done, be careful not to allow them to become too dry. The plant flowers freely in temperature of 50 degrees in a moist atmosphere.—*Boston Cultivator*.